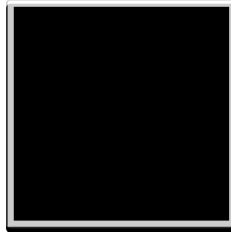


## HOW TO WRITE GOOD

by Frank L. Visco

My several years in the word game have learnt me several rules:

1. Avoid alliteration. Always.
2. Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.
3. Avoid cliches like the plague. (They're old hat.)
4. Employ the vernacular.
5. Eschew ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
6. Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary.
7. It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.
8. Contractions aren't necessary.
9. Foreign words and phrases are not apropos.
10. One should never generalize.
11. Eliminate quotations. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know."
12. Comparisons are as bad as cliches.
13. Don't be redundant; don't use more words than necessary; it's highly superfluous.
14. Profanity sucks.
15. Be more or less specific.
16. Understatement is always best.
17. Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.
18. One-word sentences? Eliminate.
19. Analogies in writing are like feathers on a snake.
20. The passive voice is to be avoided.
21. Go around the barn at high noon to avoid colloquialisms.
22. Even if a mixed metaphor sings, it should be derailed.
23. Who needs rhetorical questions?



FriesenPress  
Liked · Saturday

Can you find the Errors?

With your help, together we can defeat the ERRORIST one at a time!

Fighting errorism is like being a goalkeeper. You can make a hundred brilliant saves but the only shot that people remember is the one that gets past you. —

Tagged in this photo by [Carole Cary](#), [Burks](#), [شهادة صلاح](#), [Vu Phuong](#) and [Carole Cary](#).

Like · Comment · Share

745 people like this.

508 shares

[View previous comments](#)

6 of 166



**Jan Hawkins Piller** hahahaha - 15 is my fav! hahahaha(notice how I shortened favorite? get it?? huh huh??? get it??)

3 hours ago · [Like](#)



**Bill McPherson** I think (21) "go around the barn at high noon" is a colloquialism for saying "go to any lengths" and doing it at high noon, being the hottest part of the day. would make it a further



Write a comment...

If people wanted you to write warmly about them, they should've behaved better."

— Anne Lamott

Like · Comment · Share

844

715 people like this.

[View all 50 comments](#)



Write a comment...

7. Can I be a character in one of your stories?

8. So I have this great idea I think you should be using in your book...

9. Aren't writers just professional liars? They tell stories for a living, after all.

10. You're writing a book? Tell me everything.

Like · Comment · Share

233

327 people like this.

[View all 29 comments](#)



**Sonia V Singh** Brian Allen Hiiii

4 hours ago · [Like](#) · 1



**Brian Allen** hahahahaaahaaa NO DOUBT!

4 hours ago · [Like](#)



Write a comment...

FriesenPress shared The Writer's Circle's photo.  
September 6

"There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are." - W. Somerset Maugham

